(d) whether any consultations with the Public Enterprises Selection Board have been held in this regard; and

(e) if so, what is the outcome of the consultation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Government have appointed three Functional Directors in Air India and four in Indian Airlines as per the Public Enterprises Selection Board procedure.

New airports

2257. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiative have been taken by Government during the last one year to open up more airports in various cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apart from the proposals for development of greenfield airports at Hassan, Gulbarga and Gangtok, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken initiative during last one year for operationalisation of the airports at Cooch Behar, Pant Nagar, Akola, Gondia, Surat and Mysore on the demand of airlines. Work for strengthening and extention of runway and allied works has already been taken up at Cooch Behar airport. The probable date of completion is December, 2006. As regards the development of Mysore, Pant Nagar, Surat and Akola airports the respective State Governments have been requested to provide required additional land free of cost and free from all encumberances. The work is expected to commence during 2006-07 subject to availability of required additional land. The Gondia airstrip is also being developed for establishment of a National Flying Institute.

(c) Does not arise.

Criteria for upgradation of airports

2258. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 189 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st Februrary, 2006 and state: